

Remarks

1. Summary of the Office Action

In the office action mailed August 3, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,781,999 (Eyuboglu).¹ In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,625,773 (Boivie).

2. Status of the Claims

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-19 and added new claims 20-38 in their place. Each of the added claims includes in one way or another the function of having a BTS or BSC through which a mobile station sends a multicast-join message add to the multicast-join message an indication of the cell sector that is currently serving the mobile station. That way, the entity (e.g., RNMS) that receives the multicast-join messages from multiple mobile stations can readily learn which cell sectors are serving the mobile stations. In turn, the entity can use the knowledge to send multicast messages to efficiently direct multicast messages to just the cell sectors that are currently serving the member mobile stations.

2. Response to Rejections

Applicant submits that claims 20-38 patentably distinguish over Eyuboglu and Boivie. Although Eyuboglu and Boivie both teach multicast routing to focused groups of multicast group members, neither reference discloses or suggests the idea of having a BTS or BSC through which a multicast-join message is transmitted add to the multicast-join message an indication of the cell sector that is currently serving the mobile station so as to facilitate the efficient multicast routing.

¹ Applicant does not admit that Eyuboglu is prior art and reserves the right to establish an earlier date of invention.

Because Eyoboglu and Boivie do not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in any of claims 20-38, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests favorable action.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the case with the undersigned, the Examiner is welcome to call the undersigned at (312) 913-2141.

Respectfully submitted,

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